

Message Text

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TAGS: OCON, OGEN, ICRC, PARM, SZ

SUBJECT: GENEVA DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR

REF: STATE 44577 (NOTAL)

1. AS DEPT AWARE FROM USDEL'S REPORTS, CONFERENCE HAS BEEN TIED UP WITH POLITICAL ISSUES. GENERAL DEBATE ONLY BEGAN MARCH 5. MAIN COMMITTEES OF CONFERENCE ARE AT POINT OF BEGINNING TO MEET. RULES OF PROCEDURE ARE SCHEDULED FOR PLENARY ON MARCH 7.

2. BY MARCH 8, LATEST, SECRETARIAT HOPES THAT GENERAL DEBATE WILL BE COMPLETED. WE EXPECT RULES WILL ALSO HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THEN. ALL MAIN COMMITTEES OF CONFERENCE SHOULD BE MEETING BY MARCH 11.

3. WE UNABLE TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED PARA 2 OF REFTTEL. MAIN COMMITTEES HAVE LATITUDE TO ESTABLISH OWN WORK PROGRAMS AND WE UNABLE TO PREDICT WHAT THE PACE OF WORK WILL BE.

4. IF CONGRESSMEN INTERESTED IN OBSERVING SEVERAL MEETINGS AND GETTING PERSEPCTIVE OF CROSS-SECTION OF WORK GOING ON AT CONFERENCE, WE SUGGEST THAT A VISIT FOR SEVERAL DAYS ANY TIME BETWEEN MARCH 11 AND MARCH 22 WOULD SERVE THIS PURPOSE. WORK MORE LIKELY TO BE INTERESTING IN LATTER PART OF THIS TIME PERIOD. WE EXPECT FINAL WEEK, MARCH 25-29, WILL PROBABLY BE ATYPICAL AND FRANTIC AS COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCE RUSH TO PRODUCE REPORTS AND TO DECIDE ON FUTURE WORK PROGRAM.DALE

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